

# **BROOKINGS COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING**

**Tuesday, May 2, 2006**

The Brookings County Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, May 2, 2006, with the following members present: Dennis Falken, Emil Klavetter, Mary Negstad, Deanna Santema and Don Larson.

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Falken called the meeting to order.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Chairperson Falken declared the Consent Agenda approved with no objection from the board. The Consent Agenda consisted of the agenda for the May 2, 2006 Commission Meeting, and the minutes from the April 25, 2006 Commission Meeting.

Welfare Matters: Reference #06-056 for Emergency Ambulance Service to Hennepin County Medical Center in the amount of \$1,866.00 was approved. Reference #06-052 for Avera McKennan Hospital 1/8/06 through 1/10/06 in the amount of \$3,244.10 was denied for failure to comply with the application process.

Travel/Education: Rose Marie Stee to go to Lake Preston, SD, on May 5, 2006, to start a new 4-H Club; Laurie Tangen to go to Flandreau, SD, on May 8, 2006, to attend the All Women Count program and to go to Irene, SD, May 16-18, 2006, to attend NEAFCS Spring Professional Development; Stacy Steffensen to go to Pierre, SD, May 10, 2006, to attend election training.

## **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

Highway Superintendent, Ted Eggebraaten, gave an update on bridge construction projects on County Road 9 and on County Road 8. He reported that both of those projects should be completed by the end of May.

Director of Equalization, Joyce Dragseth, updated the board on hiring a temp to answer phones while the department is at a conference. She also discussed the possibility of having 3 of the appraisers work 4 - 10 hour days through September or October to accommodate morning and evening appointments. Dragseth also updated the board on potential Office of Hearing Examiners cases and the city-wide review starting in Brookings this week.

Veteran's and Welfare Director, Lionel Torgrude, reported that welfare numbers are about the same as last month. There have been increases in requests for utilities payments, as there has been an increase in disconnects as well. Torgrude updated the board on the upcoming depositions on hospital claims. He reported that the Veteran's numbers have increased. Collections are also going well.

Weed and Pest Supervisor, Gary Heldt, reported that new Weed and Pest Assistant Supervisor, Gary Egeberg, is in place. His department is currently working on gophers, preparing equipment for spraying and fixing organic and noxious weed signs throughout the county. Heldt told the board that his department recently attended a meeting at which their machines were certified for the spraying season ahead. He reported that mosquito spraying will begin around June 15<sup>th</sup>. Letters have gone out to private residents for weed spraying. Leafy Spurge Day is July 6<sup>th</sup>. And Heldt told the board that the next Weed and Pest Board Meeting will be May 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Swiftel Center.

Sheriff, Marty Stanwick, updated the board on the new 24-7 program. Brookings County is one of four counties involved in this pilot program that would allow judges to require those arrested and/or convicted of alcohol-related offenses to be required to come to the Sheriff's Office twice daily for breathalyzer tests. Stanwick also reported that his office is working with the zoning office on several nuisance issues.

Zoning Director, Robert Hill, updated the board on 3 nuisance complaints they are investigating. His department attended a meth awareness meeting. Hill reported that he is reviewing an environmental impact study regarding Excel Energy's proposed wind project. Hill reported on the American Planning Association conference that he recently attended in Texas. The Zoning Board meeting is scheduled for May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Hill told the board that his office will be closed May 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **ROUTINE BUSINESS**

Brookings County resident, Donna Ramsay of White, requested time on the agenda. She expressed concerns over the Easement for the Use of County Road Right-of-Way that was passed by the board the previous week. Ramsay suggested that the board hire an engineering consultant to get recommendations and industry standards on handling proposed manure pipelines that would run through the county's rights-of-way. The board instructed Highway Superintendent, Ted Eggebraaten, to visit with an engineer regarding this issue.

### **REGULAR BUSINESS**

Elvita Landau with the Brookings Public Library discussed extending the library's current outreach program into smaller communities and rural areas of Brookings County. She reported that there is interest in the program in the Volga area and that the library would be requesting additional funds in 2007 to assist with this program. The board directed Landau to research the interest in the outreach program throughout the county and to visit with the libraries in Elkton and White to see if they could assist with the program in their areas.

Human Resources/Technology Assistant, Kristin Olsen, updated the board on the NACo Prescription Drug program. She reported that the number of users of the program is down from the previous month, but the savings are up. Brookings is one of four counties involved in the program currently. The prescription drug cards are being used for inmates in the jail who have prescription drug needs. Commissioner Don Larson reported that there are many more counties in South Dakota that are in the process of utilizing this program.

Human Resources/Technology Assistant, Kristin Olsen, updated the board on the Health Officer specifications and expectations. She updated the board on the meeting with the Lincoln County, Minnesota, Commissioners. Olsen also reported on the upcoming Spring Workshop, correspondences and invitations for the board.

### **COMMISSIONER'S OPEN DISCUSSION**

Commissioner Klavetter reported on the news briefing on the Northwest Public Services sale and the Abuse Shelter luncheon.

Commissioner Santema reported on the news briefing on the Northwest Public Services sale and the Abuse Shelter luncheon.

Commissioner Negstad reported on the Abuse Shelter luncheon and meeting, and a meeting with the Director of ICAP.

Commissioner Larson reported on his recent trip to Washington D.C. for the Rural Action Caucus Fly-in. Topics discussed were Payment of Lieu of Taxes, the Save the Rural Schools Act, and Community Development Block Grants.

Commissioner Falken he will be attending the National Workman's Comp meeting. He also discussed upcoming meetings and events with the board members.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chairperson Falken declared the meeting adjourned until Tuesday, May 9, 2006

It is the policy of Brookings County, South Dakota, not to discriminate against the Handicapped in Employment or the Provision of Service. The County of Brookings is responsive to requests for communication aids and the need to provide appropriate access, and will provide alternative formats and accessible locations consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

---

Stacy Steffensen  
Election Supervisor  
Brookings County Auditor's Office